

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USDEL SALT

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 3411

GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

DEPT (H) PLEASE PASS SFRC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (HUMPHREY, HUBERT AND SCOTT, HUGH)

SUBJECT: CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT: MEETING WITH DUTCH FONMIN

SUMMARY: CODEL MET AT FOREIGN MINISTRY JULY 7 WITH DUTCH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, WHOSE OPENING STATEMENT WAS FOLLOWED BY INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. VAN DER STOEL TOOK STANDARD DUTCH LINE ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES, STRESSING DUTCH SUPPORT FOR NATO AND NEED FOR CONTINUED CLOSE ALLIANCE CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION. GON SEES CSCE AS STEP TOWARDS BETTER EAST-WEST RELATIONS USEFULNESS OF WHICH WILL BE TESTED BY FUTURE BEHAVIOR OF PARTICIPANTS. DUTCH HOPE FOR PROGRESS ON MBR AND SALT. VAN DER STOEL MADE PITCH FOR UNDERSTANDING OF IMPORTANCE TO DUTCH OF KLM ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. EAST-WEST RELATIONS: VAN DER STOEL THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN DEFINITE PROGRESS BUT THAT DID NOT MEAN THAT ALL OUT-CONFIDENTIAL

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STANDING ISSUES HAD BEEN SETTLED. THE SOVIETS, HE NOTED, MAINTAINED ARMED STRENGTH WELL BEYOND ANY REASONABLE NEED FOR SELF-DEFENSE. MOREOVER, POSSIBILITY EXISTED THAT SOVIET POLICY MIGHT UNDER GO CHANGE AFTER

BREZHNEV STEPPED DOWN. FONMIN THOUGHT IT NECESSARY THAT EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER DETENTE SHOULD BE PATEITNLY PROBED AND STRESSED ESSENTIALITY THAT NATO ALLIANCE MAINTAIN SOLIDARITY.

2. CSCE: GON SUPPORTS CSCE APPROACH IN BELIEF IT CAN LEAD TO REMOVAL OF ARTIFICIAL BARRIERS. CAUTIONING THAT CSCE COULD ONLY BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH AGREEMENTS STRUCK WOULD BE APPLIED, VAN DER STOEL WAS EMPHATIC THAT CSCE AS SUCH DID NOT USHER IN NEW ERA BUT WOULD HOPEFULLY BE MERELY USEFUL STEP TOWARDS FUTURE DETENTE. ASKED ABOUT HIS REACTION TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY SOLZHENITSYN, VAN DER STOEL CAREFULLY NOTED THAT, WHILE HE SHARED LATTER'S ABHORRENCE OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM, THE CSCE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE ALLIANCE SEEMED TO HIM TO BE THE RIGHT ONE. IT SEEMED BEST TO CONTINUE TO TRY TO DEVELOP A DIALOGUE WITH THE SOVIETS. FOR THE WEST TO DECIDE TO PUT A STOP TO THIS PROCESS WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY EUROPEAN PUBLIC OPINION. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE PRESSURES WITHIN THE SOVIET UNION FOR A BETTER WAY OF LIFE AND THESE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED. VAN DER STOEL WENT ON TO NOTE EXCELLENT DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH AND GOOD LIAISON BETWEEN THE EC NINE AND THE US, ADDING THAT HE WOULD WELCOME EVEN CLOSER CONSULTATION WITHIN "THE ALLIANCE". HE INDICATED THAT DUTCH HALF EXPECTED CSCE SUMMIT NOT TO TAKE PLACE UNTIL OCTOBER, PROBABLY REFLECTING WIDELY HELD PREFERENCE OF NETHERLANDS OFFICIALS NOT TO HAVE LATE JULY CSCE INTERRUPT PLANNED SUMMER VACATIONS.

3. MBFR: GON ATTACHES TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE TO MBFR. THE IMPRESSION IN THE HAGUE, HOWEVER, IS THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. THE DUTCH HOPE THAT INTRODUCTION OF NEW ELEMENTS IN NEGOTIATION WILL LEAD TO PROGRESS AND TO EVENTUAL ADOPTION OF ALLIED CONCEPT OF A COMMON CEILING, A GOAL VAN DER CONFIDENTIAL

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STOEL DESCRIBED AS IMPERATIVE.

4. SALT: VAN DER STOEL SAID DUTCH AUTHORITIES WELCOMED VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE STRATEGIC ARMS RACE THE CONCEPT OF A CEILING. IN THIS AREA, TOO, DUTCH HOPED PROGRESS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

5. NATO: VAN DER STODL MADE CLEAR HIS VIEW THAT ALLIANCE MUST BE KEPT HEALTHY AND STRONG. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS BY SENATOR CULVER, FOCUSING ON DEGREE OF SUPPORT FOR NATO IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY AMONG YOUNGER GENERATION, VAN DER STOEL UNEQUIVOCALLY SAID

EUROPE AND THE US MUST STICK TOGETHER
AND THAT IT WOULD BE A "DISASTER" IF NATO WERE TO
DISINTEGRATE. HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE OTHER COMMON MARKET
COUNTRIES WOULD, HE THOUGHT, EACH SAY THE SAME THING
IN HIS OWN WAY. THERE ARE, SAID VAN DER STOEL, CERTAIN
HIGHLY VOCAL QUARTERS AMONG THE YOUNGER GENERATION
THAT ARE CRITICAL OF NATO. IT WAS IMPORTANT TO
REMEMBER, HOWEVER, THAT POLLS INDICATED NO REALLY
STRIKING CHANGE IN THE WAY IN WHICH THE DUTCH
PUBLIC VIEWS THE NEED FOR THE NATO ALLIANCE. ALSO,
THE VIEW OF THOSE WHO TEND TO BE MORE NEGATIVE ARE
NOT THE CONSEQUENCE OF ANY TENDENCY OF INCREASED
AFFINITY WITH COMMUNISM, AS VAN DER STOEL SEES IT.
HE NOTED THAT THE CRITICS HAD OFTEN FOCUSED ON THE
VIET NAM WAR - AN ISSUE NOW HAPPILY PAST - AND WAS
ALSO TIED UP WITH STRONG DISTASTE OF POSSIBILITY OF
NUCLEAR WAR.

6. PORTUGAL: REITERATING WELL-KNOWN DUTCH VIEWS,
VAN DER STOEL DESCRIBED DUTCH APPROACH TO ISSUE OF
PORTUGAL AS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A GESTURE EVIDENCING
SUPPORT WHICH MIGHT HELP STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF
DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN THE COUNTRY. QUICKLY ADDING
THAT NO ONE COULD ACCURATELY PREDICT RESULTS, HE
EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A POLICY OF WITHOLDING
SUPPORT FROM PORTUGAL MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE
ABILITY OF DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS TO RETAIN - AND
REGAIN - THEIR INFLUENCE.
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USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 3411

7. BILATERAL RELATIONS: KLM: RESPONDING TO AN INVITATION BY SENATOR HUMPHREY TO DESCRIBE THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, VAN DER STOEL SAID US AND NETHERLANDS HAD BEEN OLD FRIENDS SINCE 1776. DUTCH WANTED AND EXPECTED RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE ON THIS BASIS. MENTIONING DUTCH HABIT OF PLAIN SPEAKING WHICH, HE NOTED, SHOULD BE TAKEN IN SPIRIT OF CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM AMONG FRIENDS, VAN DER STOEL TOUCHED ON KLM ISSUE. HE SAID THAT THE US AND THE NETHERLANDS NEED EACH OTHER AND MUST STAY TOGETHER. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE WANTED CODEL TO BE AWARE OF HIGH IMPORTANCE DUTCH ATTACH TO MAINTAINING LEVEL OF KLM FREQUENCIES ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC. HE RECALLED THAT IT HAD BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT, TO ARRIVE AT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS. THIS, HE SAID, HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY "VERY SUBSTANTIAL" DUTCH CONCESSIONS. SENATOR PEARSON NOTED CONGRESSIONAL ROLE IN THIS ISSUE AS RESULT OF ANTITRUST AND ENERGY ELEMENTS AND DREW ATTENTION TO SEVERE PLIGHT OF PAN AM, WHOSE FIGHT FOR CORPORATE SURVIVAL WAS ALSO A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO USG. IN REJOINDER VAN DER STOEL STRESSED THE NEED FOR FREE FLOW OF TRADE AND SERVICES IN AN
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INTERDEPENDENT WORLD AND NOTED THE MAJOR ROLE PLAYED BY THE DUTCH IN PROVIDING SERVICES OUTSIDE THEIR NATIONAL FRONTIERS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THAT KLM ISSUE HAD HIGH EMOTIONAL CONTENT IN THE NETHERLANDS AND THUS CONSTITUTED A POLITICAL PROBLEM. VAN DER STOEL

CONCLUDED DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE BY EXPRESSING THE EXPECTATION THAT IN A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE TO ACCOMMODATE CONFLICTING INTERESTS.
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